(d) and (e) Several private companies are providing extension support to farmers. Some of them are:

- ITC-e-Choupal
- TATA Chemical Limited—Kisan Sewa Kendra
- Chambal Fertilizers & Chemicals Limited—Uttar Bandhan

**Aims and objectives of NPOP**

19. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the results achieved through the National Programme for Organic Production launched in 2000;

(b) the aims and objectives of the National Project on Organic Farming; and

(c) the nutrient management practices recommended by the ICAR for soil to avoid loss of fertility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The following results have been achieved through the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) launched in 2000:—

(i) The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has accredited 11 Certification Agencies for certifying organic products.

(ii) APEDA has taken up the issue of establishing equivalency of Indian Organic Standards with European Commission and USDA.

(iii) APEDA organizes awareness programmes for development of organic farming for export. This has led to increase in the certified area under organic production.

(iv) APEDA organizes training programmes for the domestic certification agencies to accredit and make them at par with international certification agencies. As a result 5 domestic certification agencies have been accredited by APEDA.

(b) The Government has launched a new Central Sector Scheme "National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF)" from October, 2004. The aims and objectives of the schemes are as under:—

(i) Capacity building through service providers.

(ii) Setting up of organic input production units namely, fruit/ vegetable waste compost units, bio-fertilizer production units and vermiculture hatcheries.

(iii) Creation of awareness through organization of trainings, demonstrations, seminars/exhibitions etc.

(c) ICAR is advocating greater use of eco-friendly organic fertilizers like FYM, green manure, phospho-compost, enriched/vermin compost, bio-fertilizers etc. along with soil test based judicious use of chemical fertilizers as Integrated Nutrient Management to improve soil health and its fertility.

**Subsidy of drip irrigation**

20. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have sought to provide 50 percent subsidy for drip irrigation to farm holdings of five hectares only as a part of its micro irrigation programme;

(b) the details of plans Government have to bring in more and more hectares of land under drip irrigation during the next ten years; and

(c) the land covered under drip irrigation in the country; State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Micro Irrigation" during the year 2005-06 for implementation during the Tenth Plan under which assistance for micro irrigation is provided to the farmers @50% of the cost of the system for a maximum area of five hectare per beneficiary family.

(b) The scheme envisages coverage of 6.2 lakh hectare during the Tenth Plan Period involving drip as well as sprinkler irrigation. Besides, training and awareness generation programmes also form a part of the